State capitals in North East connected by Rail

1841. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State capitals in North East connected and yet to be connected by Railways;

(b) whether the policy to connect State capitals by rail is progressing vigorously;

(c) if so, whether implementation of the policy is made time bound; and

(d) if the answer to above is affirmative, the details of the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Dispur (Guwahati) is connected by rail whereas all other State capitals in the North East Region, *viz.* Itanagar, Shillong, Kohima, Imphal, Agartala, Aizwal and Gangtok are yet to be connected by rail.

(b) to (d) The following new line works have already been included in the budget for linking State capitals in the region:—

(i) Harmuti-Itanagar

(ii) Diphu-Karong as first phase of BG line to Imphal

(iii) Kumarghat-Agartala

Further, surveys for new lines from Dimapur to Kohima and updating survey for new line from Bhairabi to Aizwal are in progress.

Grants to voluntary scientific organisations

1842. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are released to voluntary scientific organisations and societies functioning in India to encourage research in any fundamental Natural Science including Physics and applied physics and to encourage publication of scientific Journals;

(b) if so, the details with addresses of such scientific journals and